

Presently urea is being imported to bridge the gap between indigenous demand and production of fertilizers substantially to bridge the existing gap between demand and production of Urea in the country.

Smuggling and black-marketing of fertilizers

1369. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state the steps taken by the Ministry to stop illegal smuggling and black-marketing of chemical fertilizers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): State Governments have been advised by the Department of Fertilizers to keep a vigil and to check smuggling of fertilizers from India to other neighboring countries through land and sea routes.

Similarly Union Home Ministry has also alerted Border guarding forces viz., Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Assam Rifles and Sashastra Seema Bal and Coast Guard to maintain strict vigilance on the borders to curb smuggling of fertilizers. Further, Ministry of Home Affairs has also addressed the Chief Secretaries to the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal to sensitize the authorities concerned to curb the smuggling of fertilizers into the neighboring countries.

Under Clause 21 of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 (FCO), it is mandatory to print the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) on the bags of fertilizers and no person is permitted to sell the material above the statutory/indicative price. The State Governments are adequately empowered under the provisions of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 to check such activities. Any violation of the provisions of the FCO, 1985 attracts penal/administrative action under the Essential Commodities Act 1955/FCO, 1985. State Governments have been advised to prevent such malpractices and ensure that the farmers are provided with proper quality of fertilizers at statutory/indicative price.

Department of Fertilizers has written to Chief Secretaries of the States having international boundaries for initiating action against person/persons involved in smuggling of fertilizers with the help of Central/State enforcement agencies.